



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TX114

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Mitchell, Sterling, Coke, Howard, Runnels, Tom Green, Irion Counties – West Texas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Intersection of Hwy 158 and Hwy 163 near Sterling City Texas

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Mitchell/Sterling and surrounding counties, including a radius of up to 100 miles, are dense with ranching and cattle feeding operations, dairy, swine and increasing numbers of small ruminants. While this represents a relatively large geographic area, veterinarians in this part of Texas routinely get calls from up to 100 miles away for food animal services. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are approximately 15,000-30,000 food animals in each county in this area and several have no veterinarians. One veterinary practice in Colorado City routinely services animals in an 8-county area. The objectives of a food animal veterinarian in this area are to 1) serve as a resource to educate the rural community about best management practices, threats and necessary preventive measures from a number of diseases, and 2) tend to the daily needs of food animals in the area including emergencies. This veterinarian is a first line of defense against a variety of diseases. They are also crucial to the state in monitoring for foreign or emerging animal disease and ensuring timely reporting of suspicious cases. The state expects an awardee would spend at least 40-50% of their time working with food animals.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The daily activities of a veterinarian in this rural area would include routine diagnosis and treatment of individual animals including 24/7 emergency availability. Herd health and evaluation of management practices would also be important and would require frequent travel to area ranches. Pregnancy determination, disease testing and vaccination, preventive care, management of dystocias in a variety of species and routine surgeries would also be performed. The veterinarian would be accredited for large animal regulatory work through the USDA and remain current on all state regulatory programs and requirements for inter/intrastate movement and change of ownership. They would monitor for many diseases including brucellosis, cattle tuberculosis, trichomoniasis, Johne's disease, anthrax and rabies. Work in this area routinely involves 12+-hour workdays in challenging conditions. The veterinarian would also be expected to be a trusted member of the community and a resource for local 4H and FFA programs to further the education of the local agricultural community.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Efforts to recruit veterinarians include a local practice owner over many years working to encourage local high school and college students with an interest in veterinary medicine to work and train in his clinic. He has travelled to multiple areas to speak with other veterinarians and the public on the need for veterinarians in rural communities. A neighboring practitioner passed away and there have been unsuccessful efforts to sell his practice, including a "rancher's incentive".

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

There are 2 young veterinarians in the area, one who has been practicing for 6 years, carries a large amount of student loan debt, and is actively seeking other employment. In addition, a veterinarian in Sterling County recently suffered a stroke which has left him unable to practice and increased the burden on nearby vet clinics. Without incentives to both recruit and retain veterinarians in this area, the livestock population of Texas cannot continue to flourish and meet the food supply needs of our region, state and nation. Veterinarians consistently observe zoonotic and emerging diseases to ensure the safety of the global food supply. The loss of numerous cattle, several deer, and 2 horses due to anthrax 2 years ago illustrates the reality of this risk in the area. Without professional surveillance, a widespread

epidemic could cause devastating losses. Given the widespread availability of numerous medications over-the-counter, veterinary advice is also crucial in maintaining a wholesome food supply through drug residue avoidance. Rural veterinarians are critical to producing a safe, secure food supply to the community, region, state, national, and international markets who trust and depend on Texas products.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name:	Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA (point of contact Holly Poremski DVM) State Veterinarian/Executive Director
Title:	Texas Animal Health Commission
Organization:	comments@tahc.state.tx.us
Email:	800-550-8242 x718
Telephone Number:	(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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